GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1992
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
MINIMUM WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to protect the interest of agricultural workers and revise minimum wages for them;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and the present status of State/Centre legislation protecting agricultural workers, State-wise including minimum and prevailing rates of wages for male and females; and

(c) the prevailing mechanism for effective implementation of labour laws in various States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both Central and StateGovernments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages. There is also a provision for Variable Dearness Allowance linked with Consumer Price Index and both Central and some State Governments reviseVariable Dearness Allowance from time to time. Recently, the Minimum Wages for Agricultural workers under Central Sphere have beenrevised vide Gazette NotificationS.O.1085 dated 11.11.1999. A statement indicating rates of minimum wages fixed by different States/UTs and the Central Governmentis annexed. The Actdoes not discriminate between workers on sex basis. Both male and female workers are entitled for equal remuneration under their respective categories. Also, a comprehensive law to protect and safeguard the interests of agricultural workers has been envisaged. Besides, some State Governments have enacted separate laws to protect the interests of agricultural labourers in their territories.

(c): There are enforcement machineries set up by both Central and State Governments for effective implementation of various laws under their respective jurisdictions. In order to ensure compliance they carry out inspections periodically and take appropriate action against the defaulters.